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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 169167

12
ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 MMS-03 SS-10 DODE-00 PER-05 INR-10

ABF-01 RSC-01 /049 R

DRAFTED BY AF/N:DLMACK:EW
8/24/73 EXT 20498
APPROVED BY AF/N:JJBLAKE
M/MS:MAWHITE
S/S - MR. GAMMON
---------- 052789
R 242057Z AUG 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 169167

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN, TS, PINR
SUBJECT: DOD PROPOSAL TO ASSIGN NAVAL ATTACHE AND
SUPPORTING STAFF TO TUNIS

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AUGUST 23 LETTER FROM DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH TO DOD DEPUTY SECRETARY CLEMENTS:

2. QUOTE THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF JULY 19 CONCERNING SECRETARY RICHARDSON'S EARLIER PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A NAVAL ATTACHE UNIT IN TUNISIA.

3. QUOTE THE DEPARTMENT HAS REVIEWED THIS PROPOSAL IN DETAIL IN CONSULTATION WITH AMBASSADOR SEELYE AND THE EMBASSY. WE BELIEVE THAT THE POLITICAL EVOLUTION IN THE AREA CALLS FOR LOWERING RATHER THAN RAISING THE U.S. MILITARY PROFILE IN TUNISIA AND IN THE ARAB NORTH AFRICAN REGION. MOREOVER, IN OUR OPINION THE AMOUNT OF USEFUL REGIONAL INTELLIGENCE WHICH AN ADDITIONAL MILITARY ATTACHE COULD OBTAIN WOULD BE MARGINAL. A RESIDENT U.S. NAVAL OFFICER WOULD BE USEFUL IN TUNISIA PRIMARILY IN CON-
NECTION WITH THE EXPECTED GOT ACQUISITION OF ONE U.S.
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NAVAL VESSEL AND, TO A LESSER EXTENT, IN CONNECTION WITH

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U.S. SIXTH FLEET VISITS.
4. QUOTE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES WE CANNOT AGREE TO ADDING A NAVAL ATTACHE UNIT TO THE EXISTING U.S. MILITARY

PRESENCE IN TUNISIA. THE DEPARTMENT WOULD AGREE, HOWEVER, TO CONVERTING THE CURRENT DEFENSE ATTACHE SLOT FROM AN ARMY TO A NAVY BILLET.

5. QUOTE ADDITIONALLY, (OR ALTERNATIVELY), IN VIEW OF THE CHANGING NATURE OF OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TUNISIA, DOD MIGHT CONSIDER MEETING THE NAVY'S NON-INTELLIGENCE NEEDS THERE BY ASSIGNING NAVAL PERSONNEL TO REPLACE ONE OR MORE OF THE EXISTING PERSONNEL IN THE U.S. LIAISON OFFICE, TUNIS (USLOT). AMBASSADOR SEELYE HAS UNDER CONSIDERATION POSSIBLE CHANGES IN THE USLOT IN FY 74, WHICH MIGHT FACILITATE SUCH ACTION.

6. QUOTE I TRUST THAT ONE OF THE ALTERNATIVES MENTIONED WILL ENABLE DEFENSE TO MEET THE ACTUAL REQUIREMENTS. UNQUOTE RUSH

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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